

PRESIDENT: You want to withdraw. He asked that it be withdrawn. It is so ordered.

CLERK: The next amendment is offered by Senator DeCamp. Read. (See page 1134, Journal.)

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: What page was that?

CLERK: Page 119. It is not in the Journal. Look in the bill, page 119.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, Mr. President, this is the section we touched on yesterday, and because some of these ideas were tied up in other things that were rejected, I still felt these two ideas here are too important for us to ignore or make an error on and so, where it says section 149, "Any person who" and I struck the word "intentionally" "abandons and neglects or refuses to maintain or provide for their" and instead of "wife" I said "spouse". Okay, two things, I think abandonment can be accomplished by either a male or a female. Remember this is the era of equal rights in everything and there are certainly situations where a female can commit the crime of abandoning her spouse, particularly if you have a situation where maybe the female is the breadwinner of the family, and for one reason or another, the other spouse is disabled or something with some children, you could have abandonment. So I am changing it and having it male or female can commit this offense and I think that is quite proper. In fact, I think it should have been in the code originally. The other thing I am including or striking is the word "intentionally". When you abandon or neglect, I think that should be a prima facie case, ipso facto, that this offense has been committed. I don't think they should sit there and have to prove in court whether Joe Smith took off for California intentionally to abandon the family or something like that. If they abandon them, that should be an offense and that is all the amendment is and then in the other places I changed the word "wife" to "spouse", "abandonment of spouse". That is it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Did he say their spouse or the spouse?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, I am not saying either at this time because you see we have gone through the code and every place where it says "his" and there are about ten jillion of them, as you know, we are changing them to a neuter. We are making it nonsexist. There you go. So that amendment comes way at the end of the code where we change all of those so I am not changing that word in this amendment but you get the idea so we will probably say "provide for their spouse".

SENATOR MARSH: No, it should be "the spouse".

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, "the spouse".

SENATOR MARSH: It should be singular.